

Sustainable Southampton Committee
March 16, 2010

Committee Members in Attendance: Bob DeLuca (Acting Chair), John Barrows, Scott Carlin, Sheryl Heather, Tony Panza, and Paul Rogers

Committee Members Not in Attendance: Tip Brolin (Chair), Nancy Graboski, Dorothy Reilly, Ann Reisman, Janice Scherer, Ric Stott, Anna Throne-Holst, and Deter Von Lehsten

Also in Attendance: Jennifer Garvey (Executive Confidential Assistant to the Supervisor), Tom Neely (Town Director of Transportation), Kate Schertel (Group for the East End), and Frank Zappone (Deputy Supervisor)

Approval of Minutes: In place of Tip Brolin, who was absent, Bob DeLuca called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Tony Panza made a motion, Tom Neely seconded the motion, and the minutes of the March 2nd, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Green Procurement Policy: Bob reported that the primary item of business was the discussion of the green procurement policy. The proposed policy is a revised version of the current policy and covers the purchasing of non-toxic cleaning products, alternative fuel vehicles, and other sustainable products.

Jennifer Garvey noted that there is a proposal being submitted by the Hampton Bays School District for a shared services grant. If awarded, the funding would be used to create a centralized office of procurement for certain products and services that would serve the public schools in Southampton Town – thereby creating greater purchasing power and significant cost savings for the institutions involved. The grant would come from the New York State Department of State and was filed a few weeks ago. By way of the authorizing resolution passed by the Southampton Town Board in support of the grant, the Town would be responsible for a small portion of the matching funds, but would benefit from the cost-saving services of the procurement office. It was also noted that this centralized procurement office would be an ideal way to help ensure adherence to the Town's Green Procurement Policy.

Sheryl Heather noted that with regard to questions on transportation definitions, someone from the town would be responsible for approving them so there are no loopholes in the policy. Tom Neely agreed to work on this and report back to the committee.

Bob DeLuca pointed out that the role of the Sustainability Coordinator working in conjunction with relevant Town departments is unclear and must be defined, or eliminated if it is not necessary. Scott Carlin noted that the Town should simply require that the procurement policy be in conformance with the goals of the Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement that was signed by the Town.

There was some discussion regarding adopting Suffolk County's procurement policy, and whether this would leave the Town open to making changes every time the County does so. Sandra Cirincione attended the meeting to share information about the policy and noted that she felt the green cleaning policy could be adopted without much trouble because this program has been in place at the County level. The vehicle procurement policy would be more complicated because there is not a currently operating program to follow. The committee agreed it would be a good idea to move on the green cleaning ("Green Seal") policy first.

The main issue for both policies would be finding someone to enforce the policy. There was consensus that creating a reward program and reporting structure for non-compliant products would be beneficial to the policy.

There was consensus that once the Sustainability Coordinator is hired, this person would be responsible for reviewing and commenting on the policy along with the committee. The committee members present agreed to postpone further discussion and decision on this item until the coordinator is on board.

Starlight Energy Systems: Jennifer Garvey reported on the proposal by Starlight Energy Systems to make a presentation to the committee. She asked that committee members review the material sent around and make a determination on whether to hear the presentation. Bob DeLuca noted that the committee had taken the position to avoid hearing presentations in order to use the committee's time most productively. There was consensus to hold off on this for now.

Plan for a Plan: The next meeting of the subcommittee to discuss a plan for a plan will take place on March 30th.

Action Items: Bob DeLuca reviewed the list of action items and reports were made on several items.

New Business: There was some discussion regarding future funding options for Town programs as well as the March 23rd public hearing on the hiring of the Sustainability Coordinator position.

As there was no other new business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.